

USAREUR worked closely to forge new relationships with Russian Ground Forces and the Armies of the new NATO member nations.

In his capacity as USAREUR, General Meigs also achieved a number of unprecedented innovations in command and control capability, Blue Force Tracking among them.

The Secretary of Defense appointed General Montgomery Meigs Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) on 16 December 2005. The Task Force has the responsibility to lead, advocate, and coordinate all Department of Defense actions in support of the Combatant Commanders' efforts to defeat improvised explosive devices (IED) as weapons of strategic influence.

In other key assignments during his military career, General Meigs specialized in leader development, military education, war planning, support and execution of contingency operations, and finding and implementing technological solutions for intelligence and command and control capability.

As Commandant of the Army's Command and General Staff College, he led the effort to write a new leadership manual for the Army and implemented case study methods in the Staff College's leadership instruction. In addition he has published a book, *Slide Rules and Submarines*, as well as numerous articles in professional journals.

Following his retirement, General Meigs assumed the duties as the Tom Slick Visiting Professor of World Peace at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. He then moved to the Louis A. Battle Chair of Business and Government Policy at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He also served as a consultant for NBC News and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation.

General Meigs has served our nation as an exemplary officer, a strategic thinker, and an innovator. His leadership of our anti-IED effort is currently saving lives by bringing critical technology and training to our men and women in harm's way.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to General Meigs and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER
GENERAL PAUL W. TIBBETS, JR.

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and courage of the pilot of the Enola Gay, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., for his heroism and service to our great nation. General Tibbets passed away today at the age of 92 in Columbus, Ohio, a city he called home for more than thirty years.

General Tibbets will forever be known for his role in piloting the Enola Gay's historic flight of August 6, 1945. No one can presume to understand the pressures Brig. Gen. Tibbets must have felt when confronted with the enormity of this mission. Having thoroughly distinguished himself by leading the first American Flying Fortress raids over occupied Europe, as well as the first bombardment

missions over North Africa, it was his successful completion of the flight of the Enola Gay that would inextricably alter the course of human history.

To fully appreciate General Tibbets' accomplishments, one must understand that Paul Tibbets was not simply the pilot of the Enola Gay, but that he played a pivotal role in every facet of this critical mission, from inception to completion. He organized, selected and trained his entire crew. He significantly altered the design of the aircraft to allow the plane to fly beyond the range of anti-aircraft fire. And, perhaps most importantly, he was one of a select few entrusted with the full understanding of the implications and magnitude of our mission on August 6th, 1945.

In the sixty years that have followed, General Tibbets' legacy has been unfortunately clouded by political and philosophical debates over the consequences of dropping the bomb on Hiroshima, and of the nuclear arms race that ensued. As a pilot and patriot, General Tibbets dutifully performed his mission without passion or prejudice, and irrespective of the destructive cargo his plane stored. While academics can debate the numbers, clearly hundreds of thousands of lives—both American and Japanese—were spared by the attack on Hiroshima, and a devastating world war was ended. General Tibbets' place in history is secure, and his mission must never be obfuscated through revisionist history—he is, without qualification, an American hero.

In a rare speech on the subject in 1994, General Tibbets stated, "I am an airman, a pilot. In 1945, I was wearing the uniform of the US Army [Air Forces] following the orders of our Commander in Chief. I was, to the best of my ability, doing what I could to bring the war to a victorious conclusion—just as millions of people were doing here at home and around the world. We had a mission. Quite simply, bring about the end of World War II. I feel I was fortunate to have been chosen to command that organization and to lead them into combat. To my knowledge, no other officer has since been accorded the scope of responsibilities placed on my shoulders at that time."

General Tibbets served out his life as an exemplary American . . . a patriot, a veteran, a loving husband of more than 50 years, and a national hero whose indelible imprint on history should be forever honored and revered.

A TRIBUTE TO LAKEVIEW BIOMASS PROJECT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a very significant event taking place in Lakeview, OR, today. Because this event is the culmination of unselfish hard work by a dedicated group who shared a vision of a better tomorrow for Lake County, I am very proud to stand to tell you that a model for future management of our natural resources is becoming a reality today.

Three Saturdays ago, I traveled to Lakeview to tour a visionary effort, the Lakeview Biomass Project, which has become the talk of energy and natural resource organizations throughout the Nation. The dedicated people

behind the Lakeview Biomass Project have found an innovative way to move us swiftly in the direction toward our rich national heritage of healthy forests, vibrant local economies, and energy independence.

As our forests become choked and overgrown to the point that they are being decimated by fire and insect infestations, the people in Lake County made a decision to reverse that downward spiral through an amazing partnership of business, Federal and State agencies, and the local community.

Madam Speaker, the word "synergy" has been used for years as a buzzword to denote a process that creates a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts. This is certainly the case in Lakeview. Although their concept was innovative, it was also founded on plain old Eastern Oregon common sense.

At the risk of minimizing the massive scope of the effort that went into this project, let me boil it down to its simplest elements. Brush and small diameter trees will be taken out of the local forests in the process of making them healthier and fire resilient. That material will either be cleanly burned in a plant that produces steam and electricity or milled into dimension lumber at the Collins Fremont Sawmill. The steam will heat the mill's kiln dryer and will turn the turbines of the generator. Jobs at the mill will be more secure, and new jobs will be generated to operate the biomass plant and to treat our forests.

Madam Speaker, I toured the new mill and was very enthused to see that small trees that likely would have burned in inevitable catastrophic wildfires can now be put to clean and productive use through state-of-the-art technology. I salute the Collins family for their vision and for their unflagging support of the Lakeview area in making a significant investment in the future, at a time when lumber producers throughout the Northwest have gone out of business.

I am very impressed with Marubeni Sustainable Energy for their commitment to build a 13 megawatt plant at the site of the mill at a cost of over \$30 million. My colleagues will be pleased to know that the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management participated extensively in this process and worked with Lake County Resources Initiative to provide a 10-year supply through stewardship contracting, and they are working toward a 20-year memorandum of understanding that will pave the way for productive use well into the future. Madam Speaker, you can take pride in knowing that the energy incentives provided by this body and signed by the President have been a significant stimulus in making this concept work.

There are so many people to recognize for this success, but certainly I must mention the Lake County Commissioners who were so very proud to show me this project earlier this month. Jim Walls of the Lake County Resource Initiative has been tireless in his efforts to move this project forward. My friend, Governor Ted Kulongoski, saw the merit of this project early on and designated it as an Oregon Solutions Project that brought all of the stakeholders together and, with the direction of Steve Greenwood, kept the focus on target. Hal Salwasser of Oregon State University served as the driving force in his role as convener. I also want to acknowledge local leaders in the environmental movement who have worked hard to develop a project that will have